



PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Tuomo Juvakka et al.

Serial No. 09/831,390

Filed: May 3, 2001

For: **DOCTOR FOR A SUCTION ROLL
PARTICULARLY IN PAPER MACHINES**

Attorney Docket No. 11001.075

RECEIVED
JUN 18 2003
GROUP 2000

Group Art Unit: 131
Examiner: K. Hastings

DECLARATION OF EXPERT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Expert declares that:

1. I am now and for 5 years have been the Chief Engineer, Product Development of Metso Paper, Inc.
2. I have for 28 years immediately prior to the filing of this application been well acquainted with design, developing and testing of certain components of paper making machines, including suction rolls and doctoring equipment.
3. I have held numerous industry positions in the design, manufacturing and testing of paper making machines including Development Engineer for 8 years immediately prior to becoming Chief Engineer and I have overseen engineering and development of suction rolls for 5 years and development of doctoring equipment for 5 years.
4. During the last 21 years prior to filing this application, I have been named inventor in more than 12 U.S. patents and numerous corresponding foreign patents relating to paper making machines.

5. I have reviewed and understood the prior art references cited in application Serial No. 09/831,390.

6. None of the cited references in application serial No. 09/831,390 teach or suggest a doctoring device comprising the combination of a doctor blade and a doctor slat.

7. A long and well-known problem in the closure of paper making art is the ability to remove all the water from a suction roll.

8. For many years prior to the filing of this application, the problem of removing all the water from a suction roll has remained unsolved.

9. None of the references I reviewed show, teach or suggest a doctoring device comprising the combination of a doctor blade and a doctor slat.

10. Prior to the invention, as described and claimed in application serial No. 09/831,390, I do not know of anyone who combined or suggested a doctoring device comprising the combination of a doctor blade and a doctor slat.

11. I and other persons skilled in the art know that a doctor blade and a doctor slat are two different apparatus for conditioning a suction roll. The functional principles and angle-ranges in which these apparatus are operationally disposed are clearly different between blades and slats. The angle of a slat relative to a suction roll is crucial to create a foil effect. And the angle used with a blade cannot create a foil effect. Slats and blades are therefore not mutually interchangeable. Their different functions as well as structures, including proper contact angles and ranges, are well known by me and practitioners in this field.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made of information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of title 18 of U.S.C. and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Juhani Vestola Juhani Vestola
Expert

Date: JUNE 4, 2003